(c) The State Government is providing a financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh to the legal heirs of the deceased farmers from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Considering the fact that indebtedness has been a major cause of distress to farmers, in order to enhance credit flow to agriculture, the Government of India announced a credit package on 18th June, 2004, which envisaged doubling of agriculture credit over the next three years. It has, *inter-alia,* also envisaged debt restructuring/rescheduling in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears, Special One Time Settlement Scheme for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers; and financing from the institutional sources for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private moneylenders.

The Government of India is also addressing the varied credit needs of farmers through Kisan Credit Cards. In mitigating risks of farmers, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is under implementation. The various measures for augmenting agricultural production and marketing are also expected to reduce the distress of farmers.

Additionally, the following are some of the specific measures taken to help the farmers in the Maharashtra State:—

(i) Credit flow institutional sources for agriculture and allied activities during 2004-05 aggregated to Rs. 8,383 crore.

(ii) Scheme to finance water-harvesting structures on large scale in Vidarbha region introduced. 500 farm ponds have since come up with the financial support from banks.

(iii) 32,600 Self Help Groups (SHGs) were credit linked during 2004-05 and out of which 44% belonged to Vidarbha region.

Private Sector participation on extension and development of agriculture sector

†3379. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the purpose of speedy development and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expansion in agriculture sector, the scheme of providing economic incentive to private sector has been implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the institutes of private sector which have been benefited under this scheme, till date; and

(c) the amount of incentive that has been sanctioned to these institutes till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Exclusively, no such Scheme has been implemented. However, the initiatives taken by this Ministry to promote private sector participation are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Initiatives taken to promote private sector participation

1. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" approved on 29th March, 2005, aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institution arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level to operationalize extension reforms. ATMAs have so far been established in 210 districts across the country. ATMA is promoting private sector participation in field programmes—training, demonstrations, information support, input supply, marketing and buy back arrangements, crop diversification and development of entrepreneurships—through facilitation and/ or cost sharing arrangements.

2. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes; (i) National Horticulture Mission and (ii) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir envisages Public-Private Partnership in developmental activities covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing including supply of quality seeds and planting material of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices and aromatic plants.

3. The Scheme "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" allows financial incentives for setting up of competitive agricultural markets in private sector, direct marketing and contract farming. Similarly, another scheme.Construction of Rural Godowns also provides financial incentives to all categories of individual/companies for creation of scientific storage capacity.

Assistance to Horticultural Schemes of Goa

3380. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme of horticulture is being implemented in Goa;

(b) the names and essential features of each of these schemes;

(c) the financial assistance available to the farmers under these schemes; and

(d) the total financial assistance given so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government is implementing the following schemes for promotion of horticulture in the country including Goa:

(i) Centrally sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission: Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country, including Goa, during the current financial year with a total outlay of Rs. 2300.00 crores for remaining period of the X plan for doubling the horticulture production, including fruits, spices, vegetables, flowers and aromatic plants, by ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing. Supply of quality seeds and planting material are part of the scheme. The total outlay for the current financial year for NHM is Rs. 63000 crore. Under the scheme, the farmers are being motivated to take high value horticulture crops for enhancing their income. An allocation of Rs. 7.88 crore has been made for the State of Goa under NHM for the year 2005-06.